IN THE CLAIMS

Please editorially amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A gasket comprising:

upper and lower gasket sealing surfaces,

an inner periphery,

a multilayer porous expanded polytetrafluoroethylene (ePTFE) tape comprising upper and lower tape layers having a plane of expansion in the x-y plane of the tape, upper and lower tape surfaces in the x-y plane of the tape and tape side surfaces extending between upper and lower tape layers,

the porous ePTFE tape wound continuously for at least two windings around the inner periphery where the at least two windings are aligned along tape side surfaces and

alternating windings of at least one substantially air impermeable layer wound in an increasing distance around the inner periphery between the at least two porous ePTFE windings,

wherein the at least two ePTFE tape windings are joined together at tape side surfaces by [[an]] said alternating windings of the at least one substantially air impermeable layer.

2. (Original) The gasket of claim 1, wherein the gasket is circular.

3. (Original) The gasket of claim 1, wherein the gasket is non-circular.

4. (Original) The gasket of claim 1, wherein the gasket is substantially square, rectangular, or elliptical.

5. (Original) The gasket of claim 1, wherein the tape comprises upper and lower tape surfaces that define upper and lower gasket surfaces.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The gasket of claim 5, wherein the gasket when uncompressed has a substantially uniform thickness across upper and lower gasket surfaces.

8. (Original) The gasket of claim 1, wherein the ePTFE has a density of less than 1.8 g/cc.

9. (Original) The gasket of claim 1, wherein the ePTFE has a density of less than 1.2 g/cc.

10. (Original) The gasket of claim 1, wherein the ePTFE has a density of less than 1.0 g/cc.

11. (Original) The gasket of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the ePTFE tape is monoaxially expanded.

12. (Original) The gasket of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the ePTFE tape is biaxially expanded.

13. (Original) The gasket of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the ePTFE tape is multiaxially expanded.

14. (Original) The gasket of claim 1, wherein the ePTFE tape is a multilayer laminate.

15. (Original) The gasket of claim 14, wherein at least one expanded polytetrafluoroethylene (ePTFE) layer comprises at least one filler.

16. (Original) The gasket of claim 15, wherein the at least one filler comprises at least one material selected from metals, semi-metals, metal oxides, glasses, ceramics, activated carbons, carbon blacks, and polymeric resins.

17. (Original) The gasket of claim 15, wherein the at least one filler comprises at least one material selected from silica, barium sulfate, graphite, and glass beads.

18. (Original) The gasket of claim 1, wherein the at least one substantially air impermeable layer comprises a fluoropolymer.

19. (Original) The gasket of claim 1, wherein the at least one substantially air impermeable layer comprises a melt processable fluoropolymer.

20. (Original) The gasket of claim 1, wherein the at least one substantially air impermeable layer comprises tetrafluoroethylene/perfluoroalkyl vinyl ether copolymer (PFA).

21. (Original) The gasket of claim 1, wherein the at least one substantially air impermeable layer comprises tetrafluoroethylene/hexafluoropropylene copolymer (FEP).

22. (Original) The gasket of claim 1, wherein the at least one substantially air impermeable layer comprises polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), densified expanded polytetrafluoroethylene, or both.

23. (Original) The gasket of claim 1, wherein the at least one substantially air impermeable layer comprises at least one of PFA or FEP in combination with ePTFE.

24. (Original) The gasket of claim 5, wherein the at least one substantially air impermeable layer extends substantially completely between upper and lower tape surfaces.

25. (Original) The gasket of claim 5, wherein the at least one substantially air impermeable layer extends beyond upper and lower tape surfaces.

26. (Original) The gasket of claim 1, wherein the at least one substantially air impermeable layer has a permeability to air less than the expanded polytetrafluoroethylene (ePTFE).

27. (Previously presented) A gasket comprising

an inner diameter and

at least two joined spirals comprising at least two rotations of at least one porous multilayer expanded polytetrafluoroethylene (ePTFE) tape alternating with rotations of at least one substantially air impermeable layer each rotating in an increasing distance around the inner diameter,

wherein the ePTFE tape has upper and lower tape layers, and tape side surfaces extending between the upper and lower tapes layers,

wherein the at least one ePTFE tape is aligned along tape side surfaces for the at least two rotations around the inner diameter, and the ePTFE tape is joined at tape side surfaces by the at least one substantially air impermeable layer that is between the at least two rotations of ePTFE tape, and

wherein the upper and lower tape layers and the plane of expansion of the at least one ePTFE tape are in the x-y plane of the gasket.

28. (Original) The gasket of claim 27, wherein the upper and lower tape layers define upper and lower gasket surfaces.

29. (Original) The gasket of claim 27, wherein the gasket when uncompressed has a substantially uniform thickness across upper and lower gasket surfaces.

30. (Original) The gasket of claim 27 wherein the ePTFE has a density of less than 1.8 g/cc.

31. (Original) The gasket of claim 27, wherein the ePTFE has a density of less than 1.2 g/cc.

32. (Original) The gasket of claim 27, wherein the ePTFE has a density of less than 1.0 g/cc.

33. (Original) The gasket of claim 27, wherein at least a portion of the ePTFE tape is monoaxially expanded.

34. (Original) The gasket of claim 27, wherein at least a portion of the ePTFE tape is biaxially expanded.

35. (Original) The gasket of claim 27, wherein at least a portion of the ePTFE tape is multiaxially expanded.

36. (Original) The gasket of claim 27, wherein at least one expanded polytetrafluoroethylene (ePTFE) layer comprises at least one filler.

37. (Original) The gasket of claim 36, wherein the at least one filler comprises at least one material selected from metals, semi-metals, metal oxides, glasses, ceramics, activated carbons, carbon blacks, and polymeric resins.

38. (Original) The gasket of claim 36, wherein the at least one filler comprises at least one material selected from silica, barium sulfate, graphite, and glass beads.

39. (Original) The gasket of claim 27, wherein the at least one substantially air impermeable layer comprises a fluoropolymer.

40. (Original) The gasket of claim 27, wherein the at least one substantially air impermeable layer comprises a melt processable fluoropolymer.

41. (Original) The gasket of claim 27, wherein the at least one substantially air impermeable layer comprises tetrafluoroethylene/perfluoroalkyl vinyl ether copolymer (PFA).

42. (Original) The gasket of claim 27, wherein the at least one substantially air impermeable layer comprises tetrafluoroethylene/hexafluoropropylene copolymer (FEP).

43. (Original) The gasket of claim 27, wherein the at least one substantially air impermeable layer comprises polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), densified expanded polytetrafluoroethylene, or both.

44. (Original) The gasket of claim 27, wherein the at least one substantially air impermeable layer comprises at least one of PFA or FEP in combination with ePTFE.

45. (Original) The gasket of claim 27, wherein the at least one substantially air impermeable layer extends substantially completely between upper and lower tape layers.

46. (Original) The gasket of claim 27, wherein the at least one substantially air impermeable layer extends beyond upper and lower tape layers.

47. (Original) The gasket of claim 27, wherein the at least one substantially air impermeable layer has a permeability to air less than the expanded polytetrafluoroethylene (ePTFE).

48. (Previously presented) A method of forming a gasket comprising joined spirals of expanded polytetrafluoroethylene (ePTFE) tape and a fluoropolymer layer comprising the steps of:

providing a length of a porous multilayered ePTFE tape having upper and lower tape layers, and side surfaces extending the length of the tape between the upper and lower layers, wherein the plane of expansion of the ePTFE is in the x-y plane of the gasket;

providing a melt processable fluoropolymer comprising at least one of FEP and PFA;

forming a fluoropolymer layer on the two ePTFE tape side surfaces comprising the steps of contacting the ePTFE tape side surfaces and the melt processable fluoropolymer, heating the ePTFE tape side surfaces and the melt processable fluoropolymer above the melt temperature of the ePTFE and the fluoropolymer, and applying pressure to weld the heated ePTFE tape side surfaces and fluoropolymer; and

forming alternating rotations of the ePTFE tape and fluoropolymer at an increasing distance around a die outer diameter comprising the steps of:

winding the ePTFE tape comprising the fluoropolymer layers around a die for a complete rotation,

winding and applying heat at a juncture of two fluoropolymer layers above the fluoropolymer melt temperature for subsequent rotations,

contacting the heated fluoropolymer, and

applying pressure to fuse the two fluoropolymer layers and join rotations of the ePTFE along tape side surfaces.

49. (Original) The method of claim 48, wherein the step of contacting the ePTFE tape and the melt processable fluoropolymer comprises the step of coating at least one side surface of the ePTFE tape along the length of the tape with the melt processable fluoropolymer.

50. (Original) The method of claim 48, wherein the density of the ePTFE is less than 1.8 g/cc.

51. (Original) The method of claim 48, wherein the density of the ePTFE is less than 1.2 g/cc.

52. (Original) The method of claim 48, wherein the upper and lower tape layers correspond to upper and lower gasket surfaces.

53. (Original) The method of claim 48, wherein the gasket is uncompressed and has a substantially uniform thickness across upper and lower gasket surfaces.

54. (Original) The method of claim 48, wherein the gasket is circular.

55. (Original) The method of claim 48, wherein the gasket is non-circular.

56. (Previously presented) A method of forming a gasket comprising the steps of:

providing a length of multilayered porous ePTFE tape comprising comprising a plane of expansion in the x-y plane of the tape, and upper and lower tape layers in the x-y plane of the tape, and tape side surfaces extending between upper and lower tape layers for the length of the tape;

providing at least one material capable of forming a substantially air impermeable layer;

coiling the length of porous ePTFE tape continuously for at least two windings at an increasing distance by aligning the tape at side surfaces for the at least two windings around a center point and

coiling the at least one material capable of forming a substantially air impermeable layer between the windings of the porous ePTFE tape by alternating a winding of the at least one material capable of forming a substantially air impermeable layer between the side surfaces of the at least two windings of the porous ePTFE tape; and

joining the at least two windings of the porous ePTFE tape at the tape side surfaces with the at least one material capable of forming the substantially air impermeable layer to form a unitary structure comprising upper and lower gasket sealing surfaces, an inner periphery and alternating windings of at least one porous ePTFE wound continuously for at least two windings around the inner periphery and at least one substantially air impermeable layer around the inner periphery, wherein upper and lower tape surfaces define upper and lower gasket sealing surfaces.

57. (Original) The method of claim 56, wherein the alternating windings of ePTFE tape and at least one material capable of forming a substantially air impermeable layer are coiled at increasing distances around the inner periphery.

58. (Previously presented) The method of claim 56, wherein the at least one material capable of forming a substantially air impermeable layer is a melt processable fluoropolymer, and the method further comprises the step of coating at least one side surface of the porous ePTFE tape along the length of the tape with the melt processable fluoropolymer prior to the step of coiling.

59. (Original) The method of claim 56, wherein the density of the ePTFE is less than 1.8 g/cc.

60. (Original) The method of claim 56, wherein the density of the ePTFE is less than 1.2 g/cc.

61 – 63 (Canceled)

64. (Original) The method of claim 61, wherein the ePTFE comprises side surfaces extending between upper and lower tape surfaces.

65. (Original) The method of claim 62, wherein the ePTFE tape windings are aligned along tape side surfaces.

66. (Original) The method of claim 61, wherein the plane of expansion of the ePTFE is in the x-y plane of the at least one ePTFE tape.

67. (Original) The method of claim 62, wherein the gasket is uncompressed and has a substantially uniform thickness across the upper and lower gasket surfaces.

68. (Original) The method of claim 56, wherein the at least one material capable of forming a substantially air impermeable layer is a fluoropolymer.

69. (Original) The method of claim 63, wherein the fluoropolymer comprises PFA.

70. (Original) The method of claim 63, wherein the fluoropolymer comprises FEP.

71. (Original) The method of claim 61, wherein the gasket is circular.

72. (Original) The method of claim 61, wherein the gasket is non-circular.

73. (Previously presented) A method of forming a gasket comprising windings of ePTFE tape joined by alternating windings of a fluoropolymer layer comprising the steps of:

providing a length of a porous ePTFE tape;

providing a melt processable fluoropolymer;

forming at least one fluoropolymer layer along the length of the ePTFE tape comprising the steps of contacting the ePTFE tape and the melt processable fluoropolymer, heating the expanded PTFE tape and the melt processable fluoropolymer above the melt temperature of the ePTFE tape and the fluoropolymer, and applying pressure to weld the heated ePTFE tape and fluoropolymer; and

forming alternating windings of the ePTFE tape and fluoropolymer around a form defining the inner periphery of the gasket comprising the steps of winding the ePTFE tape comprising at least one fluoropolymer layer around a form and applying heat at a juncture of two windings above the fluoropolymer melt temperature, contacting the tape windings, and applying pressure to join sequential windings of the ePTFE tape along the length of the tape forming at least one fluoropolymer layer between the ePTFE windings, wherein the plane of expansion of the ePTFE is in the x-y plane of the gasket.

74. (Original) The method of claim 73 wherein the ePTFE tape has upper and lower tape layers and two tape side surfaces extending the length of the tape and at least one fluoropolymer layer is formed on each tape side surface.

75. (Canceled)

76. (Original) The method of claim 73, wherein the step of applying heat at the juncture of two winding comprises applying heat at the juncture of the two fluoropolymer layers on the ePTFE tape side surfaces.

77. (Original) The method of claim 73, wherein the step of applying pressure comprises applying pressure to the ePTFE tape and the at least one fluoropolymer layer.

78. (Original) The method of claim 73, wherein the form defining the inner periphery of a gasket is a die.

79. (Original) The method of claim 73, wherein the gasket is circular.

80. (Original) The method of claim 73, wherein the gasket is non-circular.

81. (Original) The method of claim 73, wherein the fluoropolymer comprises at least one of FEP and PFA.

82. (Previously presented) The gasket of claim 1, further comprising at least one additional expanded PTFE tape wound around the inner periphery.